

MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

RELEASED: JUNE 2004

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 6

This Issue:
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
CHICKENS & EGGS
EGG PRODUCTS
POULTRY SLAUGHTER
FARM LABOR
JUNE CROP PRODUCTION
DAIRY PRODUCTS PRICES
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

April Red Meat Production

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during April 2004 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was 25 percent below March 2004, and 22 percent below April 2003 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 505,000 pounds live weight, down 19 percent from April 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 931 pounds, was down 45 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 119,000 pounds live weight, down 27 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 243 pounds, was down 39 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES--Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in April,

down 3 percent from the 3.85 billion pounds produced in April 2003.

Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 9 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,200 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.9 million pounds, 13 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,700 head, down 11 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was 7 pounds below last year, at 329 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.73 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.65 million head, 4 percent above April 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the from previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.4 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,000 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2004 commercial red meat production was 14.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 8 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

April 2003 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. April 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

April Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during April 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.28 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type.

The total number of layers during April 2004 averaged 342 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,148 eggs, up 1 percent from April 2003.

April 2004 and April 2003 both contained 22 weekdays, and four Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.49 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2004, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.85 billion eggs during April 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during April, at 319 million, was up 1 percent from a year ago.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are as follows: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, and WI and account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 1 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during April totaled 37.5 million, down 1 percent from April 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.1 million on May 1, 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 311,000 during April 2004, up 11 percent from April 2003.

Broiler Hatch Up 2 Percent

The April 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 774 million, was up 2 percent from April of the previous year. There were 661 million eggs in incubators on May 1, 2004, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.4 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2004, down 5 percent from April 2003.

Egg Products

Shell Eggs Broken Up 10 Percent

UNITED STATES--Shell eggs broken totaled 160 million dozen during April 2004, up 10 percent from April a year ago.

April 2004 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays, compared the same as April 2003.

During calendar year 2004, shell eggs broken totaled 608 million dozen, up 6 percent from the 573 million dozen broken in 2003. Total edible liquid from eggs broken in 2004 was 781 million pounds, up 7 percent from 2003.

Data presented in this report were compiled from inspection reports of the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The best available data at time of publication were used.

POULTRY SLAUGHTER

Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 1 Percent

UNITED STATES--Poultry certified wholesome during April 2004 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.31 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the amount certified in April 2003. Updated totals for March 2004 show that 3.44 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during April 2004 was 4.45 billion pounds, up 2 percent from a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.80 billion pounds, up 3 percent from April 2003, and mature chickens at 68.3 million pounds, were down 7 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 567 million pounds, down 6 percent, and ducks totaled 14.4 million pounds, up 6 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 2004 averaged 5.21 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from April 2003. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.65 pounds per bird, up 8 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during April 2004 averaged 27.4 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from April 2003.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 2004 totaled 20.5 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.46 percent of the live weight inspected, compared to 0.37 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 50.8 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.27 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.20 percent a year earlier.

April 2004 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays, the same as April 2003.

FARM LABOR**Hired Workers Up 15 Percent, Wage Rates Up 1 Percent From a Year Ago**

UNITED STATES--There were 1,077,000 **hired workers** on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 825,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 252,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an **average wage** of \$9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year.

The **number of hours worked** averaged 40.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

The **largest increases in the number of hired farm workers** from last year occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia) and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) regions and in California. In the Pacific region and California, the development of fruit, vegetables and spring planted crops was nearly two weeks ahead of normal, which heightened the demand for hired workers. Although moderate rains fell in parts of the Southeast region, the majority of the region remained drier than normal. Irrigation of cropland increased and supplemental feeding of livestock became active as pastures deteriorated, both of which caused greater demand for hired workers. In the Appalachian II region, continued expansion in the equine and poultry industries kept the demand for livestock workers at a high level. In the Mountain I region, above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation led to increased farm and ranch activity, which caused a greater need for hired workers.

JUNE CROP PRODUCTION**Winter Wheat Production Down 1 Percent from May**

UNITED STATES--Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the May 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2003. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.6 bushels per

acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1.

Hard Red production is down 3 percent from a month ago to 887 million bushels. Soft Red is down less than 1 percent from last month, and now totals 397 million bushels. White production totals 247 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month.

DAIRY PRODUCTS PRICES**Dairy Products Prices Highlights**

UNITED STATES--Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.94 per pound for the week ending June 5. The price per pound decreased 10.2 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.83 per pound, down 9.4 cents from the previous week.

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.86 per pound for the week ending June 5. The U.S. price per pound decreased 16.9 cents from the previous week.

Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged 84.2 cents per pound for the week ending June 5. The U.S. price per pound decreased slightly from the previous week.

Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 29.6 cents per pound for the week ending June 5. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.4 cents from the previous week.

**AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE—
BARLEY AND CORN**

UNITED STATES--The agricultural chemical use estimates refer to on-farm use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides on targeted crops for the 2003 crop year. Targeted crops included barley, corn, fall potatoes, sorghum, and upland cotton. Farm and ranch operators were enumerated late in the growing season after the farm operator had indicated that planned applications were completed.

The data was compiled from the Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS). The main portion of data collection time frame occurred during the months of October-December of 2003.

Barley: Nitrogen was applied to 93 percent of the 2003 barley planted acreage in the following Program States: California, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Nitrogen applications ranged from 37 percent of the acres treated in Wisconsin to 99 percent in Washington. Barley growers used an average of 1.4 applications per acre while applying 40 pounds of nitrogen per treatment. This computes to a crop year rate per acre of 60 pounds. In the Program States, 79 percent of the acres of barley planted received a phosphate application, while potash was applied to 29 percent of the acreage planted to barley.

Herbicides were applied to 93 percent of the barley planted acreage in 2003. MCPA was the most widely applied herbicide with 45 percent of the planted acreage being treated. It was applied at a rate of 0.32 pounds per acre. The next three most widely applied herbicides applied to barley, namely 2,4-D, bromoxynil, and fenoxaprop, were applied to 30, 29, and 28 percent, respectively, of the planted barley acreage.

In 2003, 3 percent of the barley planted acreage was treated with insecticides. The insecticides applied to barley were all put on less than one percent of the planted acres; therefore, no area applied values were published. Based on total pounds applied, methyl parathion at 9,000 pounds, was the most widely used insecticide on barley acres planted in the Program States. Fungicides were applied to 7 percent of the barley planted acreage in the States in the survey program.

Corn: Nitrogen was applied to 96 percent of the 2003 corn planted acreage in the Program States: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan,

Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. Corn growers used an average of 1.7 applications per acre while applying 78 pounds of nitrogen per treatment. This computes to a crop year rate per acre of 136 pounds per acre. In the Program States, 79 percent of the corn planted acreage received a phosphate application, while potash was applied to 64 percent of the planted acreage.

Herbicides were applied to 95 percent of the corn planted acreage in 2003 in the Program States. Atrazine continued to be the most widely applied herbicide with 68 percent of the planted acreage being treated. It was applied at a rate of 1.04 pounds per acre. Acetochlor, at 26 percent of the planted acres treated, was the second most widely applied herbicide, followed by glyphosate and S-metolachlor, both applied to 19 percent of the planted corn acreage treated in the Program States.

In 2003, 29 percent of the corn planted acreage was treated with insecticides in the Program States. Cyfluthrin and tebupirimphos were the most widely applied insecticides, both applied to 7 percent of the acres planted to corn in the States surveyed.

Next Issue:

**Livestock Slaughter
Farm Production Expenditures
2004 June Acreage Report
Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts--Annual
July Crop Production
Milk Production**

DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

**United States Department Of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department Of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305**

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER